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Executive Secretary

11-5309/a

July 14, 1959

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Mr. R. J. Reardon
1, Jones Street
Madras-1, India

Dear Mr. Reardon:

I appreciated your thoughtful letter of June 5, 1959, with words of condolence at the time of the death of my brother. I deeply appreciated what you said in your letter.

It is quite true that my brother was an avid reader of "who-dunnits" and there are many in his library. Unfortunately, so far I have not found any inscribed with his name, but I have not completed going over the library, and if I should, I shall certainly send it on to you.

Faithfully yours,

Allen W. Dulles

5th June 1959
115309

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Dulles,

My name is Ronald Reardon. I am 22 years old, recently married and interested in journalism. I am an Anglo-Indian and am residing in the heart of the city of Madras.

Permit me to offer you my condolences on the death of your great brother, John Foster. (In my opinion the greatest American statesman since Lincoln).

I read in the papers that "To his brother, Mr. Allen Dulles, Head of the Central Intelligence Agency, Mr. Dulles left any books he might want from his personal library". From regular reading of the "Time" magazine I learned that Mr. Dulles had a great number of "paper-backed, who-dunnits" in his possession. Perhaps one of these or any other paper-backed novel has his signature on the fly-leaf. I will be profoundly grateful if you could kindly send me any one of these cheaper paper-backed books to keep as a momento of your brother.

I have in my library his excellent book "War or Peace", but I would like to have something with his signature actually written, not printed.

I realise that this is a most unusual request and do hope it has not caused you any annoyance. In such event, please accept my apologies.

Kindly convey the condolences of the people of Madras to Mrs. Dulles and the rest of the bereaved family.

Thanking you, Sir

I remain

Yours truly,



R.J. Reardon,
1, Jones Street,
Madras-1.

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From:

Ronald J. Reardon,
I, Jones Street,
Madras-I.
(South India)

To :

Mr. Allen W. Dulles,
Office of The Director
Central Intelligence Agency,
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Dulles,

Please accept my thanks for your letter
of July 14th [redacted]
I will preserve this letter as it is a beautiful example of your
thoughtfulness and generosity, and even more, of the American people
in general.

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[redacted] feelings of apprehension set in immediately after I mailed the letter to you. I wondered if I had been too impertinent or presumptuous. Thus you can imagine how thrilled I was when the American Consul personally handed me your letter.

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I hope you do find a 'paper-back' with
your brother's signature inscribed on it and I appreciate the fact
that you will not have much time to go through his library in detail.

Thanking you once again.

I remain,

Gratefully yours,

R. Reardon

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(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE)